



Spotlight 7

Reading and Vocabulary Task 7218

1. Read the text and match the paragraphs (A-F) with their correct heading (1-7).
There is one extra heading.

Dancing Puppets On Water

A

Puppet shows all over the world entertain both children and adults and are an important part of many countries' traditions. But there is no other show quite like the Vietnamese Water Puppet Theatre. As the puppets act out myths, legends and tales of everyday life, they appear to dance on a stage full of water!

B

Vietnamese Water Puppet Theatre has a very long history. It started around a thousand years ago when farmers discovered that flooded rice fields made a perfect stage for puppet shows. The flooded rice fields were perfect because they could hide the puppets' strings and bamboo rods under the water. Over the years, the puppet shows became more popular and there were competitions for the best one.

C

Nowadays, audiences don't need to go to rice fields to see a performance. There are moveable stages and buildings that have tanks specially designed for water puppets. The surface of the water in these tanks is more than just a stage for the puppets. Hidden behind a bamboo wall, the puppeteers can create splashes and waves that add to the excitement, just like special effects in the latest Hollywood blockbuster!

D

The handmade wooden puppets can be over 3 feet tall and weigh as much as 33 pounds. They often have a glossy finish to protect them from the water. Nothing protects the eight puppeteers standing behind the scenery, though – they spend the whole two-hour show up to their waists in a pool of water.

E

The puppeteers tell many different tales during a typical performance. Many are stories about fishing and farming, or legends and national history.

F

There is also a traditional orchestra to one side of the stage that accompanies the action and a firework display as a finale. Vietnamese Water Puppet Theatre is one part of Vietnam's cultural heritage that visitors shouldn't miss.



1. THE STARS OF THE SHOW

2. TRADITIONAL STORIES

3. THE ORIGINS OF AN ART FORM

4. MUSIC AND LIGHTS

5. ONE OF A KIND

6. WORKING WITH WATER

7. CARVING A CHARACTER

A	B	C	D	E	F

2. Read again and mark the statements

True (1),

False (2),

Not Stated (3).

- Puppet Theatre was born in Vietnam.
- The Water Puppet Theatre is relatively new.
- The Water Puppet Theatre started in the countryside.
- Rice fields are everywhere in Vietnam.
- Only country people watch the shows.
- The surface of the water is totally still.
- The show usually lasts more than an hour.
- There are fireworks at the beginning of each performance.